

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH    November 23, 2010**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **MINUTES**

**The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Maia-Cicero, Vice-Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Mark Rafanelli; Mary Walsh; Valerie Zuercher; and Robert Bollengier. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross, and Student Member [substitute] Angela Russo were present. Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar and Student Member Matthew French were absent.**

**ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Member Walsh read the District Mission Statement.**

**Open Forum – None**

**Recognitions/Achievements – Girls' Soccer Team – State Champions – Superintendent Geismar called Coach Frasier and Principal Butler forward to assist in recognizing the Girls' Soccer Team – 2010 – 2011 Division II State Champions. Dr. Geismar praised the team for its great accomplishment and expressed how very proud everyone is of**

the team. Principal Butler expressed admiration for the team and told them that they “did the school right, were fantastic ambassadors”, and “played with class”. He said that he could not be more proud! Principal Butler also expressed appreciation for the attributes of Coach Frasier and Assistant Coach Marmas. Team members were called forward to receive School Committee Recognition Awards and gift cards. On behalf of the School Committee, Chair DeSack presented Coach Frasier with a School Committee Apple Recognition Award. [Coach Marmas was unable to attend tonight’s meeting. He will also receive an Apple Recognition Award.] Dr. Geismar invited everyone to stay for refreshments following the meeting.

Departing School Committee Members – Superintendent Geismar expressed his viewpoint regarding public service as an elected official serving as a member on School Committee. He said that of all the local offices, serving on the School Committee is the toughest. Dr. Geismar recognized departing members Susan DeSack, Bob Bollengier, and Mary Walsh for their outstanding service to EWG students and the school community. He expressed his sentiments that Member Bollengier has brought honor, great professional expertise, and a great attitude to the School Committee during his four-year term. He thanked Member Bollengier and told him that he would be missed. Dr. Geismar presented Member Bollengier with a EWG Appreciation Certificate and Apple Recognition Award. Director of Administration Robert Ross said that he echoes Dr. Geismar’s opinion that Member Bollengier brought a lot of professionalism to

his position. He said that it has been an honor to serve with Mr. Bollengier. Member Bollengier thanked everyone on the School Committee. He said that it was a fantastic committee and he expressed best wishes to the four remaining members and good luck to

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the new upcoming members. He said that he hopes the new members will approach their new role with lots of vigor as there is much to do going forward. Next, Dr. Geismar expressed admiration for Member Mary Walsh. He said that Member Walsh brought a great professional background with her. He said that when Mrs. Walsh speaks, you had better listen. She cares about the kids. She has always been willing to step up to do what is right for kids and has always been a voice of reason. He told her that he would miss her very much and presented her with an Appreciation Certificate and Apple Recognition Award. Member Walsh shared expressions of thanks to all and said that it has been a wonderful committee to work on. Lastly, Dr. Geismar voiced his opinion that of all the jobs on the School Committee, the chairperson position is the toughest. A lot of the time, you cannot help but be the center of controversy in the position of chairperson. Mrs. DeSack has been the chairperson for the last six-years. No matter how busy she was, she always made time and gave guidance. Dr. Geismar expressed his opinion that Chair DeSack has done an incredible job. He thanked her and said

that he would miss her very much. He presented her with an Appreciation Certificate and an Apple Recognition Award. Mr. Ross commented on his professional and personal relationship with Chair DeSack while working with her the last eight-years. He expressed appreciation for her and the awesomeness of her role as School Committee Chair. Chair DeSack thanked the administration and committee members. She said that she has worked with four superintendents and one interim superintendent during her tenure. She has seen a lot and has been through a lot but through it all the taxpayers, the students, the teachers, and the administration have amazed her with their willingness to want to work through problems and get things done always in the best interest of students. She said that things are not always easy and we do not always agree but there has not been one single person that has not tried to make sure that we can all come to an agreement and do what is right for everybody. Chair DeSack said that she is going to miss the entire committee, the administration, and the teachers and she wished them all the best of luck. Member Rafanelli offered comments and expressions of appreciation for all three departing members. He said that all three individuals have been dedicated and he would miss them all.

Presentation – Student Member Report – [Substitute] Student Representative Angela Russo explained that she is filling in tonight for Student Member Matthew French as he is fulfilling his commitment to the drama department in preparation for their upcoming production A Christmas Carol. Angela reported that the

girls' soccer and the girls' volleyball teams recently won Division II Championships. Chair DeSack interjected and advised that the School Committee would be recognizing the girls' varsity and junior varsity volleyball teams at its next meeting. Angela reported that the boys' soccer team was 2nd place champions and the tennis team made it to the playoffs this season. Last week Student Council held a can drive and collected 553 canned goods and \$30 cash. On December 21, the Kristy Lussier Blood Drive will take place. The next project that Student Council will work on is to number the senior parking lot so everyone has his or her own parking space.

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**Project Giveback Presentation – Mr. Harrington updated members on Merchant Card Services' strategies to bring more local businesses onboard with the Project Giveback Program. He presented the committee with a check for \$260. He said that this amount represents proceeds from three local participating businesses for a three-month period.**

**Video Presentation – Kayvon Shakoory – Dr. Geismar explained to members of the audience that Kayvon submitted a video in the Why RI? Video Contest and placed second. Kayvon was recognized for his achievement at the last School Committee meeting. The committee had requested that he show his video tonight.**

**Due to difficulties with the projector, Chair DeSack advised that the showing of the video would be delayed for the moment.**

**ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA- →Dr. Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.**

**Member Bollengier made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Member Rafanelli seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.**

**The following items were approved:**

**A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of November 9, 2010; Executive Session Minutes of November 9, 2010; Joint Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2010**

**B. Personnel Items**

**1. Appointments**

**2. Leaves of Absence**

**3. Resignations**

**4. Grievances**

**5. Non-Renewals**

**6. Recalls**

**7. Sabbaticals**

**C. Bills – In the amount of \$179,600.66**

**D. Home School Approvals**

## **End Consent Agenda**

**Correspondence – (1) Confidential Memorandum to School Committee from Superintendent Geismar dated November 19, 2010; (2) November 15, 2010 Letter to Big Yellow School Bus Grant Program from Senator Frances Maher, Jr. copied to EWG School Committee and backup; (3) EWGHS Profile 2010-2011/GPA Conversions for Numerical Grades Chart**

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**NEW BUSINESS – Sr. High Band Field Trip Proposal – Vice Chair Cicero made a motion to accept the Sr. High Band Field Trip Proposal. Member Zuercher seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.**

**Good Health Benefit Program Approval – Director of Administration Robert Ross proposed that the School Committee approve the Good Health Benefit (GHB) Program. He briefly explained that the GHB is an employee centered health and wellness program available through the Wellness Institute, a subsidiary of BCBSRI. He reminded members that he has been keeping them informed about the program in his Monthly Status Reports. Mr. Ross said that the GHB would offer programs such as weight loss, stress management, and smoking**

cessation and activities such as yoga to improve employee health and wellness. Programs usually run for a 10-week period and would come at no cost to employees.

Member Bollengier made a motion to approve the Good Health Benefit Program. Member Rafanelli seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Hockey Co-Op Agreement with West Warwick Schools – Superintendent Geismar reported that the West Warwick School Committee approved the contract enclosed in members' supplemental packets. This contract is slightly different from the contract that the EWG School Committee approved at its Special Meeting on November 18. Dr. Geismar said that he received the contract this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. He explained the difference in this contract is that the West Warwick School Committee took out language regarding payout of fundraising on Exeter-West Greenwich's side. EWG's 50% of funding will come from the district. Dr. Geismar advised that fundraising monies would be put into a separate account and would not come from EWG's budget. He said that he and Mr. Ross feel comfortable with this arrangement. He and Mr. Ross are recommending approving the contract with the changes made and having Chair DeSack sign it.**

Member Rafanelli made a motion to have Chair DeSack sign the contract as presented. Member Zuercher seconded the motion.



**Member Bollengier voiced his opinion that this contract is very different from the previous one because it explicitly states that EWG School District provides funding. This contract does not say fundraising will provide funding. Dr. Geismar said that it is his understanding that the language still exists in the Parent Agreement. West Warwick has said that it will only accept a check for the school district. EWG will have a separate account for hockey fundraising monies and will write the check. Chair DeSack said that if parents' obligations were not met, a check would not be given. The district cannot submit payment if there is no money in the account.**

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**Chair DeSack called for a vote on the motion made by Member Rafanelli and seconded by Member Zuercher. Voted 6 – 0 – 1. Member Bollengier abstained. The motion passed.**

**Student Information System (SIS) Approval – Chair DeSack advised that this item would carry over to the next meeting agenda to the new committee.**

**Capital Project Update – Superintendent Geismar reported he and his colleagues met with the architect, engineer, and contractor on**

**November 18 to look over plans for the security system. At this point, the plans are still under review. Dr. Geismar said that he would report further on this item at the next meeting.**

**Chair DeSack reverted to agenda item, Video Presentation – Kayvon Shakoori. Kayvon played his Why RI? award winning video.**

**Reports/Comments –**

**Important Dates and Meetings –Tuesday, December 7, 2010-School Committee Meeting**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – None**

**Adjournment - Member Rafanelli moved to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Voted 6 – 1 in favor. Chair DeSack opposed. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.**

**ROBIN CERIO**

**CLERK**